



ecology and environment, inc.

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International Specialists in the Environment

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

DATE: October 28, 1987

PREPARED BY: Beatrice Thys
Ecology and Environment, Inc.

SITE: Kaiser Aluminum Foil Plant
23333 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Cupertino, CA 95014
Santa Clara County

TDD #: F9-8706-059

EPA ID #: CAD009155284

1. Initial FIT Conclusions and Recommendations for Further Action:

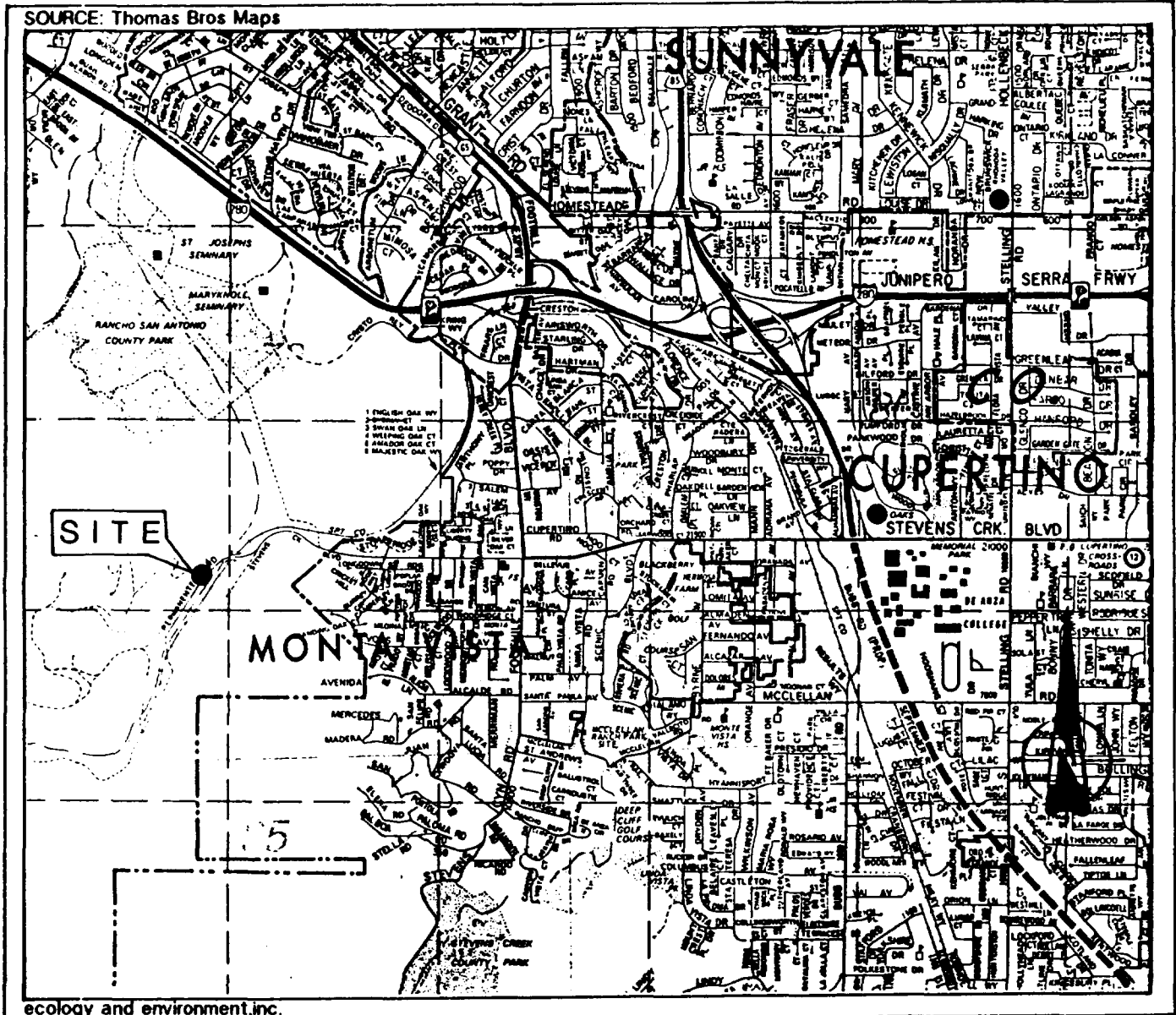
a) Site Description:

The Kaiser Aluminum Foil Plant (KA) has operated at 23333 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Cupertino, California, since 1946 (see Figure 1, Site Location Map). The Kaiser Cement Plant, a separate company, is located adjacent to KA at the west end of Stevens Creek Boulevard (1). The site was first occupied (from 1943 to 1945) by a magnesium processing facility which was built by Henry Kaiser. During this time, magnesium oxides were refined on-site. Details regarding the steps of this refining process are unknown. This pure magnesium was for use in the manufacture of incendiary bombs. Since 1946, aluminum foil has been produced on-site. The process involves running heavy-gauge aluminum foil through mills which produce thinner foil stock for a variety of uses, from household foil to aircraft wing foil.

The facility is a multi-level building; levels are designated according to their elevations above sea level (545 ft, 560 ft, 570 ft).

There are three underground tanks, an unidentified number of above-ground tanks, and approximately 12 transformers containing polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) oils on-site. Stored in the above-ground tanks (some of which are below grade) are: flammable/non-flammable gases, corrosives, combustible oils, isopropyl alcohol, combustible liquids, and flammable liquids (2).

SOURCE: Thomas Bros Maps



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FIGURE 1
SITE LOCATION MAP

KAISER ALUMINUM FOIL PLANT
23333 STEVENS CREEK BLVD
CUPERTINO, CA 95014

Apparent Problem:

In 1982 KA responded to a San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) facility questionnaire directed at gathering information for RWQCB's Santa Clara Groundwater Basin leak-detection program. KA indicated that it had one steel underground waste storage tank containing paint sludge (80% kerosene, 19% waste oil, and 1% paint); and two steel underground non-waste storage tanks containing kerosene. KA indicated on the questionnaire that the three tanks each held 12,000 gallons and that they were installed in 1956 and drained and taken out of operation in 1979 (3). (When the paint sludge tank was removed in 1986, it was discovered that its capacity was actually 22,000 gallons.)

In November 1983 RWQCB requested that KA implement a subsurface investigation to determine if any of the tanks had leaked. The investigation was conducted by EMCON Associates (EMCON) in February 1984. Two exploratory borings: B-1, adjacent to the paint sludge tank; and B-2, adjacent to the kerosene tanks, were drilled to depths of 40 and 29.5 feet, respectively (see Figure 2 for boring locations). Two samples from each boring and one sample adjacent to B-1 were analyzed. The samples from B-1 were analyzed according to EPA Method 624 (volatile organics) and EPA Method 625 (semi-volatile organics). The samples from B-2 were analyzed according to EPA Method 625. Results of analyses are shown in Table 1 (4, 5).

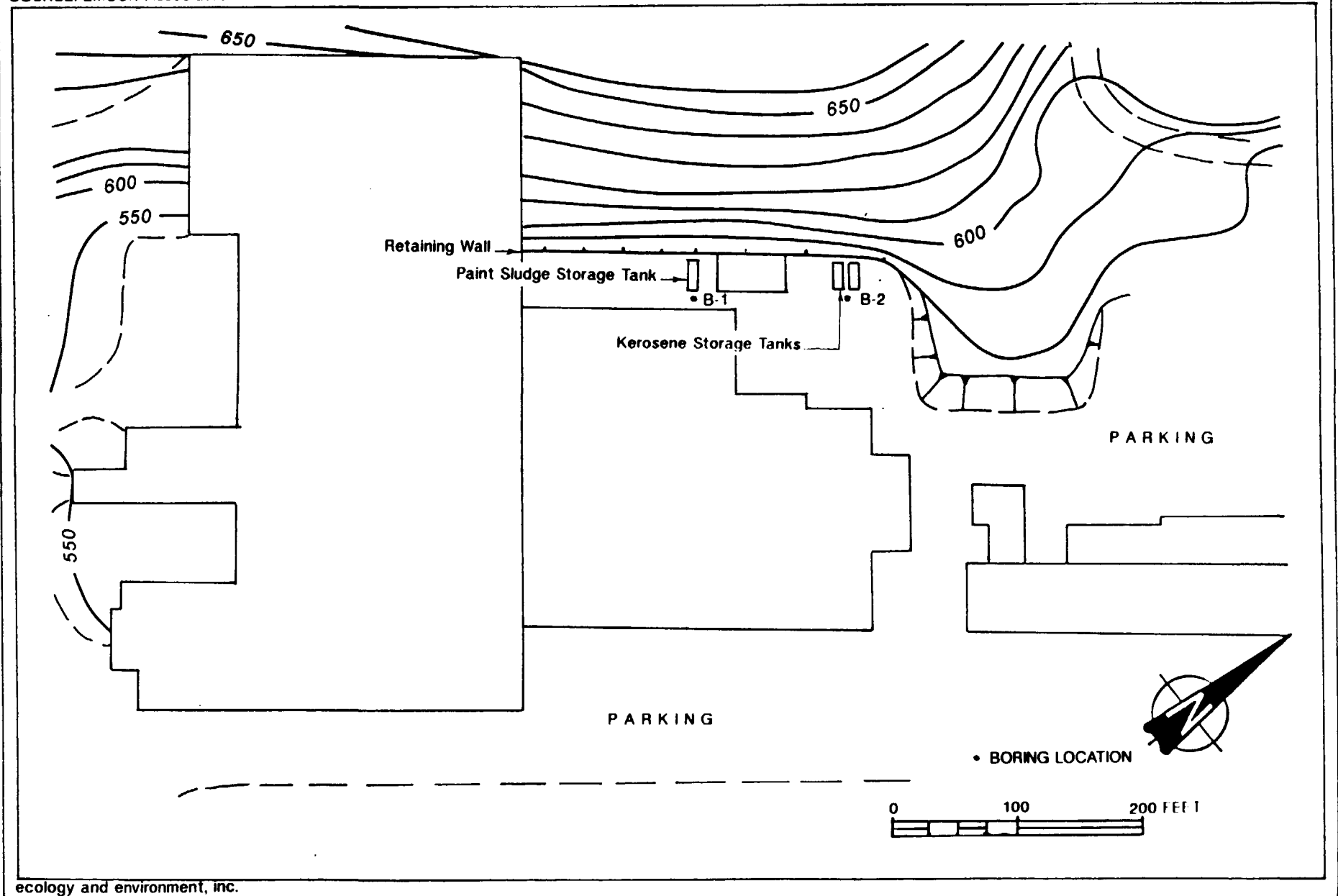
TABLE 1

| <u>Boring Location</u> | <u>Depth Below Ground Surface (ft.)</u> | <u>Compound Detected</u> | <u>Concentration</u> | <u>Detection Limit</u> |
|------------------------|---|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| B-1 | 14 - 15.5 | toluene | 140 ug/kg ¹ | 1 ug/kg |
| B-1 | 34 - 34.5 | toluene | 150 ug/kg ¹ | 1 ug/kg |
| Adjacent to B-1 | 5 - 6.5 | unidentified carbon mixture similar to diesel fuel | 250 mg/kg ¹ | unknown |
| B-2 | 10.5 - 12.0 | -- | ND (2,3) | unknown |
| B-2 | 24 - 25.5 | -- | ND (2,3) | unknown |

Source: 1. EMCON Associates, 4/13/84
2. ND = Not Detected
3. RWQCB 205J Report Technical Appendix, Case Summaries, 6/85.

The kerosene tanks were drained and filled in place with concrete sometime in 1983. The paint sludge tank was removed by Chem Waste Management in December 1986, under the supervision of the Santa Clara County Health Department. It is unknown whether post tank removal sampling was conducted. Prior to its removal, the contents of the tank were sampled; contents were identified as methyl ethyl ketone (MEK),

SOURCE: EMCON Associates



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BORING LOCATIONS - 1984 SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION
KAISER ALUMINUM FOIL PLANT

isopropyl alcohol, toluene, waste oil, and ink sludge containing PCBs. Date of sampling and affiliation of sampler is unknown. When the tank was emptied, contents were run through a carbon filter bed. The resulting sludge was containerized and hauled by Chem Waste Management to Chicago, Illinois, to be incinerated. Because of inadequate labelling on the part of KA, the incineration facility refused the drums and they were sent back to KA. The sludge was then resampled for PCBs. The highest concentration of PCBs detected was 46 ppm, although most levels were below 15 ppm. In October 1987, half of the 123 drums of sludge were transported off-site to the ENSCO incineration facility in Arkansas. The other half are stored in an outdoor bermed area on-site and are scheduled to be transported to ENSCO on November 2, 1987. The name of the transporter is unknown (6).

When the paint sludge tank was removed, another 22,000-gallon tank and two underground concrete sumps, 3-by-3-by-8 feet, were discovered. The sumps were covered with cement over steel plates. According to KA, the sumps had been connected to the 22,000-gallons tanks by piping and valves, and at one time held cooling oil from magnesium processing. The sumps are scheduled to be closed at the same time that the 22,000-gallon tank is closed.

According to Exeltech, consultants to KA, the second 22,000-gallon tank apparently contained oily water, but this tank is now empty. contents were removed (date unknown), filtered through carbon beds, and are now stored in a Baker tank on-site. A liquid sample from the tank has been sent to a laboratory for analysis. When the results of the analyses are received and the contents of the tank are identified, the liquid will be disposed of accordingly (7). Because of the tank's proximity to a building foundation, KA is proposing abandonment of this tank in place (1).

According to KA, the underground tanks were only utilized when the magnesium processing facility was on-site. Although KA uses kerosene, it did not use the 12,000-gallon underground tanks for kerosene storage, but instead has used and continues to use above-ground tanks for this purpose (1).

b) HRS Factors:

Observed Release:

As discussed in the Apparent Problem section, the subsurface investigations performed by EMCON in 1984 revealed that a compound similar to diesel fuel was present in soils adjacent to the paint sludge waste tank and that toluene was present in the soil beneath the kerosene tanks. The presence of these compounds represents a potential for an observed release to groundwater; however, no groundwater was encountered during subsurface investigations to a depth of 40 feet below ground surface. The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) has indicated that the Santa Clara Formation, which underlies the site, is considered a non-water-bearing formation (see Groundwater section) (8).

Direct Contact/Fire and Explosion:

The KA and Kaiser Cement Plant grounds are entirely fenced (1).

K A's Hazardous Materials Management Plan specified the following precautionary measures implemented to safeguard against direct contact, fire or explosion hazards (2):

1. All fuel oil and kerosene storage tanks on the 545 level are secondarily contained by concrete berms. Storage tanks that supply the rolling mills and the mory oil (lubrication oil for rolling mill bearings) storage tanks are contained in vaulted storage rooms designed to meet a one hour fire rating.

This level is equipped with automated sprinkler devices and is posted with "no smoking" signs.

2. The 55-gallon drum storage area located outside on the 545' level is posted with "no smoking" signs. Drums containing flammable materials (including MEK) are stored separately from drums containing combustible oils and greases. Empty drums are also physically separated from drums containing wastes or virgin materials.
3. The isopropanol storage area on the 570' level is located outside and is posted with "no smoking" signs.
4. The 9000 gallon liquid nitrogen tank on the 570' level is located outdoors and is completely enclosed by chain link fencing.

Waste Type/Quantity:

Wastes generated by KA are: municipal wastes, waste rolling oil from the foil mills, contaminated filter powder, and MEK. Four to five thousand gallons of waste oil/year are hauled away by two oil recyclers, Romic Chemical and Alviso Independent Oil Company; the waste oil contains aluminum fines. Sixty-four cubic yards of filter powder (diatomaceous earth and Fullers earth combined with Conoco C12-16 paraffin) is transported on a quarterly basis to a Class I facility in Idaho by EnviroSAFE. Prior to July 1987, it was taken to Kettleman City, California, by Chem Waste Management. The filter powder is generated in the rolling mill, when aluminum fines are filtered out of the coolant that is sprayed on the sheet metal. This paraffin-based spray is applied to keep temperature down and lubricity up. Approximately two drums of MEK per month are hauled off-site and incinerated. According to KA, a solvent recycling system which will reduce the amount of MEK use on-site is currently being implemented (1).

Groundwater:

The site lies beyond the outer edge of the Santa Clara subbasin, a large structural depression in the Santa Clara Valley. The interior of the basin consists of an upper unconfined aquifer and a lower confined aquifer. The elevated area surrounding the interior basin is referred to as the forebay, which is the principal area of recharge to the lower aquifer. In the forebay, groundwater occurs in one unconfined aquifer (9). KA lies outside of the boundary of the

forebay, in an area underlain by folded alluvial strata. The alluvial formation has a high clay content and permeability rates are generally low. Within the alluvial deposits there are perched water zones which result from surface flows from the foothills. The surface flows percolate down into shallow buried stream channels (1). Below the alluvial layers lies the Santa Clara Formation, a gravelly shale bedrock which is generally considered by SCVWD to be non-water-bearing because it produces only limited quantities of groundwater. The Santa Clara Formation was encountered at 7.5 and 22 feet below ground surface during the drilling of B-1 and B-2 in 1984 (4). Depth to groundwater and groundwater flow direction are unknown.

There is little well construction in the Santa Clara Formation and it is not a source of Cupertino's municipal water. In the foothills nearby, there may be private wells which draw from the formation; however, SCVWD does not have a well registration program for the area and could not identify the locations of these wells when contacted by FIT (1).

There is some interconnection between the groundwater inside and outside of the Santa Clara subbasin, and that inside of the basin to some extent; however, the Santa Clara Formation stores only a fraction of groundwater as compared to what is stored within the basin. SCVWD is not as concerned about the presence of toluene and kerosene in soils because these contaminants are not as mobile as benzenes and solvents (1).

The City of Cupertino's water supply is provided by four different water companies: 1) the San Jose Water Company; 2) California Water Services; 3) the Rigland Mutual Water System; and 4) City of Cupertino Water Department (CWD). CWD services 4,000 customers (approximately 10% of the City's population); 80-95% of its water is surface water from county lakes and the San Francisco Bay delta. The remainder is provided by two CWD wells screened at 298 feet and 350 feet (uppermost perforations) and within 3 miles of KA (10,11).

Net precipitation from November to April for the area is 7.4 inches (12).

Surface Water:

Permanente Creek flows northward less than 500 feet to the east of the site, and eventually reaches the South San Francisco Bay. RWQCB has identified the following beneficial uses of South San Francisco Bay and tributary water bodies: water contact recreation; non-contact water recreation; wildlife habitat; warm and cold fresh water habitat; fish migration; industrial service and process supply; navigation; and agricultural water supply (13).

The one-year, 24-hour rainfall for Cupertino is 3 inches (14).

Other Factors:

KA is registered as a hazardous waste generator on the EPA's current data base, notification date on August 14, 1980 (15).

The PCB transformers on-site are all inside buildings and are diked. General Electric is under contract to KA to inspect the transformers on a quarterly basis. According to KA, no problems with the transformers have occurred (1).

It is unlikely that KA would be eligible for inclusion on the National Priorities List because SCVWD considers the underlying Santa Clara Formation to be non-water-bearing, and the formation does not provide water for municipal use. Therefore, the target population would be low.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Kaiser Aluminum Foil Plant (KA) is an aluminum foil processing facility which has operated at 23333 Stevens Creek Boulevard, just outside the city limit of Cupertino, California, since 1946. From 1943 to 1945, the site was used as a magnesium processing plant. There are a total of three underground tanks on-site. Two of the tanks contained kerosene and were emptied, filled with concrete and abandoned on-site in 1983. One tank, known to have contained MEK, isopropyl alcohol, toluene, waste oil, and PCB-containing ink sludge, was excavated and removed from the site in 1986. During excavation, a fourth tank was discovered. KA plans to abandon this tank in place. According to KA it contains oily water. Tank contents have been sampled but have not yet been identified.

Subsurface soil investigations revealed contamination of underlying soils with toluene and a compound similar to diesel fuel. Although there is potential for contaminant migration, according to SCVWD this soil contamination does not appear to be a threat to local groundwater resources. It is unlikely that KA would be eligible for inclusion on the National Priorities List due to a low target population. FIT therefore recommends no further action under CERCLA.

2. FIT Review/Concurrence:

Martha Wultus 10/29/87

3. EPA Recommendation For Further Action:

*11/1/87 - NFA Thomas L. Lf for
Paul Ca Couwey*

4. Response Termination: No Further Action _____; Active _____.

Justification:

References

1. Merkel, Rick, Kaiser Aluminum Foil Plant (KA), and Beatrice Thys, Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E&E), telephone conversation, 9/23/87 and 9/28/87.
2. Hazardous Materials Management Plan for KA, Exeltech, 9/24/87.
3. RWQCB Facility Questionnaire, signed by J.V. Day, KA Vice President, Corporate Environmental Affairs, 5/26/82.
4. EMCON Associates to KA, letter summarizing soil and groundwater investigation at KA, 4/13/84.
5. Assessment of Contamination from Leaks of Hazardous Materials in the Santa Clara Groundwater Basin 205 J Report, Technical Appendix: Case Summaries by SEEHRL, U.C. Berkeley and RWQCB, 6/85.
6. Merkel, Rick, KA, and Beatrice Thys, E&E, telephone conversation, 10/28/87.
7. Loeb, Tim, Exeltech, and Beatrice Thys, E&E, telephone conversation, 10/19/87.
8. Iwamura, Tom, Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and Beatrice Thys, E&E, telephone conversation, 9/25/87.
9. Rationale for Aquifer Connection in the Santa Clara Valley, memo to HRS file, David Egan, MITRE Corporation, 1/86.
10. McKee, Ken, Cupertino Water Department, and Ayn Schmit, EPA Region IX, telephone conversation, 7/26/84.
11. McKee, Ken, Cupertino Water Department, and Beatrice Thys, Ecology and Environment, Inc., telephone conversation, 7/27/87.
12. Calculated from data in Climatic Atlas of the United States, U.S. Department of Commerce, Environmental Science Services Administration, Environmental Data Service, 6/68.
13. RWQCB Tentative Cleanup and Abatement Order for Four-Phase Systems, Inc., 1987.
14. Rainfall Frequency Atlas of the United States, Technical Paper No. 40, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1983.
15. EPA RCRA Data Base, 7/22/87.

P.A./S.I. CONTACT LOG

Facility Name: Kaiser Aluminum Foil Plant (KA)
Facility ID: CAD009155284

| Name | Affiliation | Phone # | Date | Information |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Antoinette Carney | DOHS | (415) 540-2043 | 7/22/87 | DOHS has a file on KA. File reviewed and copied by FIT on 7/28/87. |
| Marie Thomas | RWQCB | (415) 464-1072 | 7/22/87 | RWQCB has a file on Kaiser Cement. File reviewed and information relevant to the adjacent foil plant copied by FIT on 7/29/87. |
| Ken McKee | Cupertino Water Department | (408) 257-4505 | 7/27/87 | See Contact Report and 1984 EPA Record of Telephone Conversation. |
| Bob Holston | Santa Clara Health Department (SCHD) | (408) 299-6930 | 9/18/87 | See Contact Report. |
| Nicole Gien | SCHD | (408) 299-6930 | 9/21/87 | See Contact Report. |
| Tom Callahan | RWQCB | (408) 464-1255 | 9/21/87 | See Contact Report. |
| Rick Merkel | KA | (408) 252-3788 | 9/23/87, 9/28/87 10/28/87 | See Contact Reports. |
| Tom Iwamura | SCWD | (408) 265-2600 | 9/25/87 | See Contact Report. |
| Dave Ghilarducci | Cupertino Fire District (CFD) | (408) 378-4015 | 9/25/87 | KA is not within Cupertino city limits, therefore it is not in CFD's jurisdiction. |
| Tim Loeb | Exeltech | (415) 659-0404 | 10/19/87 | See Contact Report. |

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY: Cupertino Water Department (CWD)
ADDRESS: 10430 South De Anza Boulevard
Cupertino, CA 95014
PERSON
CONTACTED: Ken McKee
PHONE: (408) 252-4505
FROM: Beatrice Thys
TO: CERCLIS File
DATE: 7/27/87
SUBJECT: Tandem, Zilog, Kaiser Aluminum

Four different companies supply Cupertino (population 40,000) with water: 1) San Jose Water Company; California Water Services; 3) Rigland Mutual Water System (small, private); and 4) CWD. 80-90% of CWD's water is from county lakes and the San Francisco Bay delta region. CWD has 4,000 customers, approximately 1,000 of these are outside of city limits. Zilog is approximately 2.5 miles away from the municipal wells. Tandem and Kaiser are 2.5 to 3 miles away.

Record of Telephone Conversation

Date: July 26, 1984

To: Ken McKee
Superintendent
Water Department
City of Cupertino
(408) 241-4505

From: Ayn Schmit
Toxics & Waste Management Division
EPA Region 9

Re: Location of and population served by Cupertino City wells

The City of Cupertino operates two municipal wells, Well #2 (State Well #: 7S/2W12M02) and Well #3 (State Well #: 7S/2W12F01). Depth to uppermost perforation of Well #2 is 298'. Depth to uppermost perforation of Well #3 is 350'. The wells are located at De Anza Blvd. and Homestead Blvd.

Water from the wells is blended, and served to 3500 service connections.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY: Santa Clara County Health Department (SCHD)
ADDRESS: 2220 Moorpark Ave.
San Jose, CA 95128
PERSON
CONTACTED: Bob Holston
PHONE: (408) 299-6930
FROM: Beatrice Thys
TO: CERCLIS File
DATE: 9/18/87
SUBJECT: Kaiser Aluminum Foil Plant (KA)

Nicole Gien is the SCHD person in charge of KA, although Mr. Holston was involved with the site in the past. Ms. Gien was not in, so he looked through her files and gave me the following information.

A tank was removed from the site in November/December 1986. Mr. Holston supervised the removal and said that it was a complicated process which took a long time. When the tank was removed, another was discovered next to it. This tank is in the process of being closed. Chem Waste Management has yet to submit a report on the removal to RWQCB for approval. Tom Callahan is the RWQCB contact.

KA has an area for hazardous waste storage. SCHD is waiting for the KA waste-management plan to be submitted. The first draft needed revisions.

Mr. Holston added that Kaiser Cement has vapor monitor wells which become groundwater monitor wells at some times of the year. There are springs and high groundwater in the area.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY: Santa Clara County Health Department (SCHD)
ADDRESS: 2220 Moorpark Ave.
San Jose, CA 95812
PERSON
CONTACTED: Nicole Gien
PHONE: (408) 299-6930
FROM: Beatrice Thys
TO: CERCLIS File
DATE: 9/21/87
SUBJECT: Kaiser Aluminum Foil Plant (KA)

SCHD received a draft of KA's Hazardous Materials Plan, but the plan did not include a complete inventory of all tanks. No underground tanks were listed. There are approximately 17 above-ground tanks, some of which are below grade. There is a 20,000-gallon tank connected to two underground sumps. KA apparently does not want to remove these because they are near a building. KA is trying to work out an agreement with RWQCB to abandon them in place. KA claims the contamination is from a tank which has already been removed. Groundwater is at a depth of 80 feet (according to an older report); therefore KA argues there is not a potential to contaminate groundwater.

The present consultant for KA is Exceltech in Fremont. The KA contact is Rick Merkel (408) 252-3788. He is difficult to contact. Tom Callahan is the RWQCB contact. Ms. Gien has tried repeatedly to get information from KA with little success. She hopes to get a complete inventory soon.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY: Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
ADDRESS: 1111 Jackson St.
Oakland, CA 94627
PERSON
CONTACTED: Tom Callahan
PHONE: (415) 464-0787
FROM: Beatrice Thys
TO: File
DATE: 9/22/87
SUBJECT: Kaiser Aluminum Foil Plant (KA)

Mr. Callahan did not know any details about the underground tanks. RWQCB is not currently handling the site, as it is not a priority site. He will be doing an inspection of the site during the first or second week of October, however. KA has submitted to Santa Clara Valley Water District a closure in place proposal for the underground tank discovered when the one tank was removed.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY: Kaiser Aluminum Foil Plant (KA)
ADDRESS: 2333 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Cupertino, CA 95014
PERSON
CONTACTED: Rick Merkel
PHONE: (408) 252-3788
FROM: Beatrice Thys
TO: CERCLIS File
DATE: 9/23/87
SUBJECT: KA

History

- 1942 - Henry Kaiser constructed a magnesium processing facility which was completed in 1943.
- 1943-1945 - Magnesium was processed on-site. Magnesium oxides were refined to make pure magnesium for use in the manufacture of incendiary bombs. After World War II was over, this process was no longer necessary.
- 1946 - Aluminum foil mills were brought in. Heavy-guage aluminum foil stock was used to make thinner aluminum foil for household use, and aircraft-wing foil, among other uses.

Wastes

Wastes generated at KA are: standard municipal waste, contaminated rolling oil from the foil mills, contaminated filter powder, and MEK. The waste oil is hauled away by two oil recyclers: Romic Chemical and Alviso Independent Oil Company. The oil contains aluminum fines. EnviroSAFE hauls contaminated filter powder (diatomaceous earth and Fullers earth), combined with Conoco C12-16 paraffin to a Class I facility in Idaho since July 1. Before that, Chem Waste transported it to Kettleman City. MEK is incinerated off-site.

(Cont.)

Waste Quantities

Four to 5,000 gallons/year of waste oil.

Four loads/quarter (16 cubic yards/load) of earth powder.

Two drums/month of MEK - A solvent-recycling system is being implemented to reduce the amount of MEK used. Also, KA has switched to use of water-based paints for foil tinting, thereby reducing the amount of MEK needed for cleaning.

Storage Tanks

Two underground kerosene tanks (12,000 gallons each) were closed in 1983 and filled with concrete. One 22,000-gallon underground waste storage tank has been removed. This tank contained MEK, isopropyl alcohol, toluene, waste oil, and ink sludge. A sample from the tank showed that the sludge contained PCBs at a concentration of 15-20 ppm. B-1 was located near this tank. While this 22,000-gallon tank was being excavated, a second 22,000-gallon tank was discovered. This tank contains oily water. KA is in the process of closing the tank in place. The tank is close to a building. Also discovered during tank removal were two concrete sumps (3-by-3-by-8 feet each) covered with concrete over steel plates. Apparently, they had been connected to the 22,000-gallon tank by piping and valves and at one time held cooling oil from magnesium processing. The sumps will be closed at the same time as the 22,000-gallon tank is closed.

According to Mr. Merkel, the abandoned kerosene tanks were formerly used for rolling oil by KA; however, neither of the 22,000-gallon tanks were related to KA's processes.

Above-ground tanks and waste-storage areas are addressed in KA's Hazardous Materials Management Plan (HMMP). Mr. Merkel requested that I send him a formal request for the HMMP and for soil samples analyses from borings in the underground-tank areas. He said he would call me back concerning the dates the underground tanks were installed.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY: Kaiser Aluminum Foil Plant (KA)
ADDRESS: 23333 Stevens Creek Blvd
Cupertino, CA 95014
PERSON
CONTACTED: Rick Merkel
PHONE: (408) 252-3788
FROM: Beatrice Thys
TO: CERCLIS File
DATE: 9/28/87
SUBJECT: KA

The two 12,000-gallon tanks were installed in February 1956 and the two 20,000-gallon tanks were installed in 1942, removed in December 1986. Diesel fuel is not stored on-site, but he believes it is stored at the cement plant. Occasionally, when KA's air compressor fails, they bring in a portable air compressor which holds 200 gallons of diesel fuel. This happens approximately once a year. When the underground tank was removed, no signs of any holes were noticed. Prior to tank removal, the liquid from the tank was run through a carbon filter and the resulting sludge was drummed up and hauled by Chem Waste Management to Chicago to be incinerated. Because of a PCB-labelling problem, the incineration facility refused the drums and they were sent back to KA. The sludge was then resampled for PCBs. The highest concentration of PCBs detected was 46 ppm, although most levels were below 25 ppm. The 45 drums of sludge are now at KA and will be incinerated soon.

General Electric is under contract to KA to inspect the transformers on a quarterly basis. There have been no problems with the transformers as far as Mr. Merkel knows.

The contaminated filter powder is generated in the rolling mill, when aluminum fines are filtered out of the coolant that is sprayed on the sheet metal. This is done to keep temperature down and lubricity up. The spray is paraffin-based.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY: Kaiser Aluminum Foil Plant (KA)
ADDRESS: 23333 Stevens Creek Blvd
Cupertino, CA 95014
PERSON
CONTACTED: Rick Merkel
PHONE: (408) 252-3788
FROM: Beatrice Thys
TO: CERCLIS File
DATE: 10/28/87
SUBJECT: KA

Half of the 123 drums of PCB waste have been transported off-site to the ENSCO incineration facility in Arkansas. The other half are stored in an outdoor bermed area on-site and are scheduled to be transported to ENSCO on November 2, 1987.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY: Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD)
ADDRESS: 5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118
PERSON
CONTACTED: Tom Iwamura
PHONE: (408) 265-2600
FROM: Beatrice Thys
TO: CERCLIS File
DATE: 9/25/87
SUBJECT: Kaiser Aluminum Foil Plant (KA)

KA is a site of concern to SCVWD, but it is not a high priority because of the geology of the area. The site is outside of the Santa Clara Valley Groundwater Basin and is underlain by an old alluvial formation consisting of folded strata. Below the alluvial layers lies the Santa Clara Formation, which is generally considered by SCVWD to be non-water-bearing because it produces only limited quantities of groundwater.

The alluvial formation contains a large amount of clay and permeability rates are generally low. It is difficult to distinguish between the alluvial layers and the underlying Santa Clara Formation because of the variability of the folded strata (from very lightly consolidated to highly compacted). There is not much well development in the Santa Clara Formation and it is not a source of Cupertino's municipal water. There may be private wells nearby in the foothills which draw from the formation; however, SCVWD does not have a well registration system for this area and Mr. Iwamura could not tell me where the wells were located. Within the alluvial deposits overlying the Santa Clara Formation, there are perched water zones which result from surface flows from the foothills. The surface flows percolate down into shallow buried stream channels.

There is interconnection between the groundwater outside of basin and that inside of the basin to some extent; however, the Santa Clara Formation stores only a fraction of groundwater as compared to what is stored within the basin. There are some municipal wells in the mountains to the west which draw from the Santa Clara Formation. The flow rates from these wells are 5-30 gallons/minute. Flow rates from municipal wells within the groundwater basin are 300-1,000 gallons/minute.

(Cont.)

SCVWD has no opposition to the existing Bryan Canyon Disposal Site (which is close to KA), as long as there is adequate cutoff and monitoring. SCVWD is not as concerned about toluene and kerosene because they are not as mobile as benzenes and solvents.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY: Exeltech
ADDRESS: 41674 Christy Street
Fremont, CA 94538
PERSON
CONTACTED: Tim Loeb
PHONE: (415) 659-0404
FROM: Beatrice Thys
TO: CERCLIS File
DATE: 10/19/87
SUBJECT: KA

He will FAX me a copy of KA's HMMP. Contents of the remaining tank on-site were removed, run through carbon filtration beds, and are now stored in a Baker tank on-site. A sample from the tank is in the process of being analyzed. Once this is done, the waste will be disposed. He thinks it is mostly water. Exeltech has recommended abandonment in-place because of the failing hillside and retaining wall near the tank.